

The role of International Development Projects in Supporting the Most Vulnerable during the
Conflict in Syria

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Abstract

This paper covers on the role of international development projects in supporting the most vulnerable in the course of the conflict in Syria. The most vulnerable in this regard are identified as IDPs and refugees; in Syria and in neighboring nations such as Lebanon and Jordan. The paper recognizes the contribution made by international organization in helping IDPs and refugees following the conflict in Syria; adopting a general approach that international organizations help in implementing development projects which in turn uplift the status of IDPs and refugees from the Syrian conflict.

Dedication

To my daughter and son, as I believe in an old Arabic proverb that says, “A man/woman is like a good seed wherever he/she is planted he/she will produce a good fruit.” I look forward to seeing the profundity of this proverb continuing to grow as you will become a better seed and will find better soil that will produce the unsurpassed fruit.

Acknowledgments

This project paper fits in obtaining the Master of Professional Studies degree in International Development at Cornell University. In particular, I specialized in the managerial aspects of development projects. During the last eight years, I became involved in the development issues of the Middle East region. This was brought about by my having joined the movement that brought changes to the political environment in 2011 in Egypt and, a larger sense, in the Middle East, as well as through the actual development work that followed the 2011 uprising. For these reasons, I decided to deepen my understanding and resolved to focus my project paper on the development projects present in the Middle East, and , specifically, as such projects pertain to Syria.

First and foremost, I thank Allah (God) for letting me live to see this project paper to completion.

Second, I would like to thank my thesis advisor Professor John R. Mathiason of the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs at Cornell University. The door to Prof. Mathiason's office was always open whenever I needed help or had a question about my research or writing. He consistently allowed this paper to be my own work, while gently guiding me in the right direction whenever he thought it warranted.

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Executive Summary

The conflict in Syria resulted into a humanitarian crisis not only in Syria but also in neighboring regions as while some segment of the population was internally displaced, a good number was forced to flee into neighboring nations where they were granted refuge. The paper's main objective is to establish the positive impact that international development projects have had in uplifting the status of refugees and IDPs as a result of the Syrian war. The paper commences with a brief discussion on the Syrian war, the resulting IDPs and refugees as well as the international organizations working with these groups to improve their condition. The paper then proceeds to look at the conflict and post conflict consequences on the local populace, which defines how segments of the Syrian population were left internally displaced whereas others were forced to seek refuge in other countries. The paper recognizes the function the UN has played in these particular situation and looks at the UN Sustainable Development Goals in conflict and post conflict regions. Refugees and IDPs are subsequently defined by the paper and they are also considered in line with the SDGs as well as the global rights owing to them internationally. The paper then narrows down to the conflict in Syria, scrutinizing it in the lenses of international organizations and their role with Syrian IDPs and refugees. The paper ends with discussions on how various development projects commissioned and facilitated by international organizations have led to the development and enhancement of IDPs and refugees (particularly in Jordan and Lebanon) in various perspectives.

Introduction

The conflict in Syria which started in the year 2011 and carries on to date has resulted into many internally displaced people as well as refugees. The war has led to humanitarian crisis for Syrians displaced internally or those who are accommodated as refugees in other countries (Mkhabela, 2013). Various international organizations have come up with a number development projects to aid the Syrians; those internally displaced due to the conflict as well as refugees in other nations, particularly in the Middle East. This paper seeks to interrogate the role of these international development projects in supporting the vulnerable in the course of the war in Syria.

In order to effectively present of the role of these international development projects in supporting the most vulnerable in the course of the war in Syria, the paper will specifically look at areas such as the conflict and post conflict consequences on the local citizens, United Nations (UN) sustainable development goals for conflict and post conflict regions, the particularly played by the UN as well as other Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in supporting those affected by the conflict in Syria and the role small and medium sized enterprises play in relation to internally displaced persons and refugees with respect to the Syrian war among other topic areas.

The war in Syria has significantly scaled down today, but the fact of internally displaced persons within Syria and the existence of refugees in countries such as Jordan and Lebanon has to be effectively addressed. In effectively tackling the research question, the paper seeks to avail one of the ways through which the challenge of refugees and internally displaced persons from the Syrian conflict can be effectively assisted to help reduce the impact of war (Young et al. 2014).

Conflict and Post Conflict consequences on the local citizens

The consequences of any conflict can be classified into conflict consequences and post conflict consequences; with the former referring to the immediate whereas the latter to the aftermath of the war. This section of the paper looks at both conflict and post conflict consequences of war on local citizens, with particular focus on the war in Syria.

Conflict Consequences

Conflicts often result to physical damage; with infrastructure set up by government and private persons for the use of locals often destroyed; partial or wholly by conflict. In Syria, a number of cities acted as strongholds for both the government forces and rebel forces and consequently recorded high numbers of partially damaged or completely destroyed infrastructure. Areas such as Dayr az-Zawr, Aleppo and Kobani recorded some of the highest percentages of regions with physical damages to infrastructure by the year 2017 following the commencement of the war in 2011 (Gleick, 2014).

City	Units in 2010	Damaged Units in 2017		Damaged Units in 2017 (Percentage)	
		Partially Destroyed	Destroyed	Partially Destroyed	Destroyed
Dayr az-Zawr	48,430	15,107	4,849	31.2	10.0
Kobani	20,801	2,226	814	10.7	3.9
Alepo	662,323	154,465	49,830	23.3	7.5

Table 1: Physical damage to building units in 3 Syrian cities as a result of the conflict (World Bank)

As *Table 1* above illustrates, significant numbers of housing units were destroyed in various Syrian cities. The information recorded on the table is as presented by World Bank and is just but a small fraction of the physical damage resulting from the conflict. Physical damage is not only restricted to buildings but also covers infrastructure for essential services such as water, transport and electricity.

Another impact of conflict is loss of lives, people are killed as a result of conflicts between warring factions. Statistics from the conflict in Syria validates this point. According to Syrian Centre of Policy Research, approximately four hundred thousand Syrians had been killed in the year 2016 as a result of the conflict (Fouad et al, 2017). This is huge number of deaths, with social lives greatly disrupted within Syrian communities. Apart from the deaths recorded in Syria, a greater number of the populace were internally displaced while a good number went into other countries as refugees. There were a total of five million seven hundred thousand internally displaced Syrians by the year 2016; and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that there approximately four million eight hundred refugees from the Syrian conflict by the year 2016 (Fouad et al, 2017).

Post Conflict Consequences

Among the post conflict impacts of war include disruption of economic activities as war does a number of things such as disruption of strongly entrenched economic networks as well as destroying the physical capital, so that it has to take a nation a significantly long period to restore these and move forward. With its economic life. Last on the post-conflict impacts of conflict situations is the negative human development outcomes. A number of people are likely to loosely their jobs as the jobs in themselves are destroyed, leading to unemployment (Combs, 2017). Further, younger citizens below legal working ages have to be absorbed into manual hard

labor in order to bridge the gap left by employment destruction. All these relate to the conflict situation in Syria,

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Related to Conflict and Post-Conflict Regions

The United Nations came up with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the year 2015 to spearhead development across critical areas such as ensuring a clean environment, enhancing accessibility to basic needs such as education, water and food and so forth (Lu et al, 2015). The UN also recognized the unique needs of conflict and post conflict regions; and the setbacks they suffered following such conflicts and designed specific and relevant sustainable development goals to ensure such regions are helped to stand up and carry on along the path of attaining the sustainable development goals set by the UN.

The sustainable development goals set for conflict and post conflict regions take into cognizance the various challenges faced by these regions; such as unstable central authorities to push through development agenda in line with the UN development goals, the lack of infrastructures, lack of information as well as lack of concrete strategy to steer through the development agenda of these regions (Waage et al, 2015).

The UN sustainable development goals for conflict and post conflict regions are supposed to be aligned alongside the development goals and aspirations of such regions and are meant to aid such nations rise from the conflict and its aftermath, to get on track of national development alongside the UN sustainable development goals (Le Blanc, 2015). Focusing on the conflict in Syria, the first UN sustainable development goal that comes to light is capacity building of conflict and post conflict regions with respect to utilization of sustainable development

principles. This entails coming up with specific guidelines for the development of national sustainable development goals with the background of conflict in mind, to move the nation from the conflict or post conflict period and into a period of the region building on its own sustainable development goals (Hajer et al, 2015).

In conflict and post conflict regions, the UN appreciates the need for peacebuilding and thus some of the sustainable development goals for these regions focus on the creation of scalable toolkits that help the regions integrate principles of sustainable development into various national development strategies that the regions come up with following conflict, or those existent before conflict (Biermann et al, 2017).

Further, the UN recognize the role of regional collaboration in restoring conflict or post conflict regions on the development path and thus as part of the sustainable development goals preserved for these regions and aimed towards getting the regions on the path of realization of the seventeen general sustainable development goals, the UN aims at creating regional awareness on the status of the region affected by conflict or emerging from conflict within its region so as to get them regional support in their development and restoration agenda (UN, 2013). .

Creation of regional awareness will enable nations in conflict or nations emerging from conflict work on the sustainable development goals with respect to their own circumstances. The UN comes into this through regional capacity building and networking facilitation so as to get regional support for the development agenda of nation affected by conflict (Gore, 2015). With respect to Syria, this would involve the UN rallying nations such as Jordan and Lebanon to work with Syria following the period of conflict and help in incorporate some of the sustainable development goals and principles into Syria's national development planning.

Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees

The term internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees have often been confused and even used interchangeably whereas they do refer to totally different groups of people. IDPs are generally persons who as a result of conflict have to run away from their homes or places of residence but remain within the borders of their country. Every situation of conflict is likely to result into IDPs, as these are people fleeing from the actual conflict or the impact of conflict on their lives if they chose to remain in their homes and local regions. In Syria for example, there have been high numbers of IDPs, more than there have been witnessed in other nations rocked by civil wars in the history of the world, as the number stands at a staggering seven million six hundred thousand (Lee, 1996). This is over and above other nations that have been locked in civil war for a number of years, such as Colombia, Iraq and the Democratic Republic of Congo; which have recorded internally displaced persons in approximate numbers of six million, three million six hundred thousand and two million eight hundred thousand respectively (Lee, 1996).

The status of a refugee has been recognized the world over since the time of King Ethelbert of Kent in 600AD, where people were allowed to seek asylum in places like churches, and could not be harmed as asylum seekers (Phuong, 2000). In as much as the term refugee has been confused with IDPs, it simply means an individual fleeing own country and seeking to be granted stay in a host country as a result of the hostile situation in the country of origin. Simply put, a refugee is a person granted refugee status. The main difference between a refugee and an IDP is that an IDP is displaced internally and is accommodated within the borders of their country of origin whereas a refugee is accorded refugee status in another country.

The Relationship between SDGs and IDPs and Refugees

The seventeen SDGs created by the UN and as defined in the context of conflict and post conflict areas point out to a relation to the status of IDPs and refugees. Among the SDGs include eradication of poverty, depletion of hunger, promotion of good health, access to clean water and sanitation and quality education among others. As seen in the discussion on the impact of conflict, it is evident that conflict situations brings about disruption in various spheres of life, disruption efforts towards achieving these goals; despite the efforts put by the existent government structures to secure the same (Brolan, 2016).

The UN has been working in and with conflict and post conflict regions in line with the SDGs, in order to help these regions get back on track with the SDGs. The key strategy for conflict and post conflict regions is to aid them integrate sustainable development strategies into national planning for development. This outline a close relation with IDPs, as these become the immediate problem that the regions have to deal with, ensuring that they can get access to food, clean water and sanitation, quality education and so forth following the end of conflict or as such conflict slows down. Thus, the SDGs when implemented with close collaboration between the UN and conflict and post conflict regions lead to speedy resolutions for IDPs (Brolan et al, 2017).

In the discussion on SDGs for conflict and post conflict areas, the role the UN plays backed by the SDGs in creating regional awareness among the neighbors of the conflict and post conflict region; towards helping speedy return to normalcy relates directly to the situation and circumstances of refugees. Refugees are likely to be held up primarily in neighboring nations whereby their refugee status is recognized. Working from a regional perspective ensures that some of the SDGs are realized even for refugees and that regional blocs help the conflict and

post conflict regions take back refugees following the end of conflict and help them work towards achieving the SDGs (Brolan et al, 2017)..

The Global Rights of IDPs and Refugees

There are rights recognized globally as owing to refugees and IDPs. Top among these is preserved for refugees; the right of non-refoulement. This imposes an obligation on states hosting refugees not to send back to the region of conflict where most evidently, their life or freedom would be threatened or compromised by the fact of belonging to a particular race, ethnicity, nationality, political opinion or a social group. This is a principle that should never be violated by any state (Mooney, 2005).

The second right that applies to both refugees and IDPs that is recognized worldwide is the freedom of movement. For refugees, they have the right to move and seek asylum within their region and this should not be curtailed. Further, refugee's right to the freedom of movement should not be unnecessarily restricted in the host country, provided that they are in compliance with all the regulation set for their stay in the host country (Mooney, 2005). IDPs too have the right to freedom of movement in their own state and this should not be unnecessarily curtailed on grounds such as ethnicity and political opinion.

The right to liberty and security of person is also a refugee and IDP right recognized internationally. Refugees must be treated in a manner that respects their right to liberty and security of person and this should never be violated even by the host country. IDPs also are accorded the same within their region of conflict and neither side of the warring factions should act in violation of this right. Among other rights recognized as owing to refugees and IDPs

include the right to family life, where they can enter into family unions and enjoy family life (Austin et al, 2008).

The Conflict in Syria

The conflict in Syria started during the Arab Spring of 2011, with protests calling for President Assad to step down. However, the protests were met with extreme violence and the situation quickly escalated to full blown war pitting various factions. The Syrian government is supported in this war by a number of international allies including powerful nations such as Russia, Iran as well as the Hezbollah rebel group (Mkhabela, 2013). The Syrian government has fought this war as against a number of opposition factions including Free Syrian Army, the Syrian Democratic Forces, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Al-Nusra Front among others.

There are other nations that have also been actively involved in the war without necessarily supporting either side, but with view of protecting own interest on the international front. The US for example has conducted strikes on government forces, ISIL and even opposition forces during the course of the conflict. Turkey on the other hand has come into active occupation of regions of Syria in the North West where its interests lie. The conflict has led to devastating effects with civilians being the main casualties and humanitarian situations having deteriorated (Young, Et al. 2014).

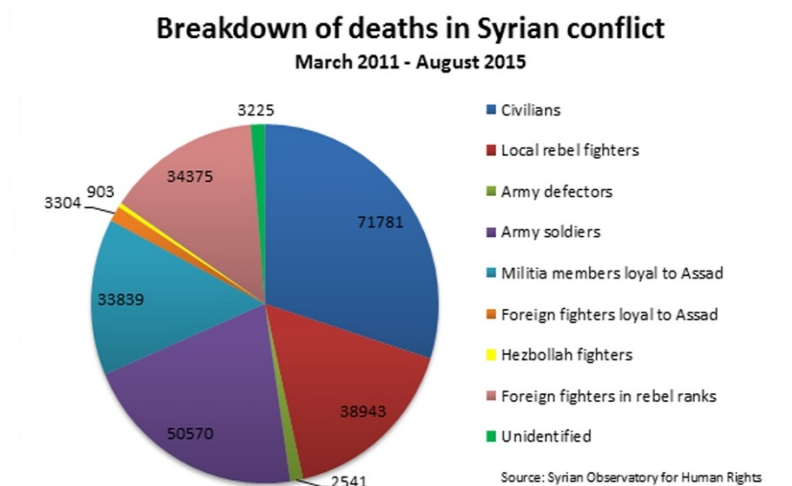


Figure 1: Breakdown of the deaths in Syrian Conflict (Aljazeera.com)

As *figure 1* above illustrates, civilians are the major victims of the conflict in Syria, leading in the number of deaths, while survivors of the war are left needing humanitarian aid either as refugees or IDPs.

Syria's Conflict in the Lens of International NGOs

The humanitarian crisis in Syria as well as in other locations in the Middle East where Syrian refugees have trooped in their numbers has attracted the attention of various international NGOs which have come in to help contain the humanitarian crisis emanating from the conflict. The International NGOs have viewed the humanitarian crisis resulting from the war in Syria as manageable through the collaboration of the international community in assisting those affected by the war live more tolerable lives, whether as refugees in various nations or as IDPs remaining in Syria (Baban et la, 2017).

The UN has been the leading international organization not only coordinating for humanitarian support but also calling for the end of the conflict in Syria through the UN General Assembly. Various UN agencies have taken control of the humanitarian efforts aimed at assisting those

affected by the violence in Syria live more humanely in the already deplorable conditions created by the conflict (Khalaf, 2015).

International NGOs such as the World Food Program (WFP) which focuses on the accessibility to food worldwide, UNHCR which looks into the needs of refugees worldwide, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which help to push for the needs of children towards accessing basic needs in situations such as the conflict in Syria have been actively involved with the humanitarian aid with respect to the conflict in Syria. Other International NGOs that have also played a commendable role towards addressing the humanitarian crisis created by the conflict in Syria include Save the Children, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ARDA), World Vision and CARE.

Syrian IDPs and Refugees

The Syrian conflict has led to a great number of IDPs and refugees since its commencement in the year 2011. Figure 2 below illustrates the escalated numbers of Syrian IDPs and refugees by 18th December 2014 and the figures are just enormous.

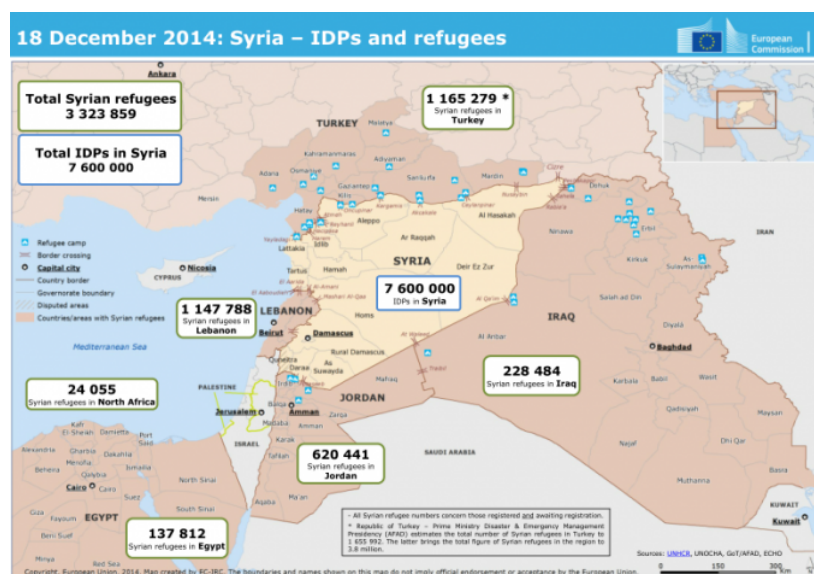


Figure 2: Distribution of Syrian Refugees and IDPs by 18th December 2014 (European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations)

Currently, the UNHCR estimates that there are about six point two million IDPs within Syria, and this number is made up of about 2.5 million children (Verme et al, 2015). This figure as already pointed out in the paper, is the highest ever recorded the world over; with about one point eight million IDPs displaced in Syria in the year 2017. World Vision reports that presently, the total number of Syrian refugees in neighboring nations add up to five point six million, a big number reflecting the humanitarian crisis created by the conflict in Syria.

The role of the UN and the International NGOs in supporting Syrian IDPs and Refugees

The UN is an international body of nations that brings together nearly all the nations of the world. Under the UN there are various agencies that are created for various purposes. In the Syrian conflict and in relation to IDPs and Refugees from the conflict, UN agencies such as the UNCHR, UNICEF and World Food Program have played a vital role. From a general perspective, these agencies carry out a number of projects on behalf of the IDPs and refugees so as to protect them against the negative impact of conflict that have resulted into their status as well as avail a number of solutions that help the IDPs and the refugees carry on with their lives in whatever location (Ahmadoun, 2014).

UNHR has worked on various aspect of the conflict, reporting to the international community on humanitarian developments with respect to IDPs displaced within Syria and refugees in neighboring nations such as Lebanon and Jordan. The international community then responds in providing donations in form of funds and as well as other material donations that would aid in

addressing various concerns. Such funds are directed to projects and solutions directly by the UNCHR or are diverted to various UN agencies such as the UNICEF and the WFP program to cater for more specific needs such as food and education needs for children (Coen, 2015).

The UN and its agencies further create a platform for which other international NGOs such as CARE, World Vision and Save the Child can come to avail donations in form of food, clothing, shelter, healthcare amenities among other provisions for the IDPs within Syria and the Refugees in neighboring nations (Hampton, 2014).

International Development Projects for Syrian IDPs and Refugees

International NGOs have kicked off a number of international development projects for Syrian IDPs and Refugees, aiming towards the realization of long term stability following the conflict that adversely affected the lives of Syrians, leading to a significant number being internally displaced and others living as refugees in neighboring nations. The UN through its agencies such as the UNHCR is leading in the creation and implementation of the international development projects for Syrian IDPs and Refugees, primarily through calling for worldwide donations to be used in the implementation of long lasting solutions for Syrian refugees and IDPs. Among the development projects commenced by the UNCHR include shelter projects, with the UN agency aiming at providing shelter for IDPs as well as refugees who would return to Syria; with partially damaged buildings being made habitable whereas materials for additional structures are provided. Also in the spirit of implementation of development projects in Syria, the UNCHR has come up with a Humanitarian Response Plan that will see through the ease of integration of returnee refugees back into the country as well as uplift the conditions of the IDPs (Fargues & Fandrich, 2012).

International NGOs have also played a vital role in line with implementation of development projects that will see through permanent as well as sustainable transformations for Syrian IDPs and refugees in other nations. ARDA in particular can be lauded for catering for the needs of both IDPs within Syria as well as refugees in neighboring states. For IDPs, ARDA has rolled out a project for the provision of safe and adequate shelter; through a shelter upgrade approach to guarantee habitable housing. In Lebanon where refugees are in the highest numbers, ARDA has come up with the Lebanon Education Assistance for Refugee Needs (LEARN) through which Syrian refugee children can carry on with their education seamlessly as part of the local school system. There are numerous other development projects commenced on behalf of Syrian refugees by international NGOs that seek to accord IDs and refugees smooth adaptation into life after conflict (El-Khatib et al. 2013).

The Role of Small and Medium Enterprises for Most Vulnerable Syrian IDPs in their Economic Development

The conflict in Syria led to serious disruptions to the Syrian economy as well as to the Syrian people. Various job positions and earning opportunities that Syrians held before the war were lost. Additionally, the fact of displacement implies the loss of material wealth accumulated over time. International organizations have shown the will to assist Syrian IDPs build from the impact of the war, so as to kick start the normal cycle of life. This path towards sustainable development is aided further by the creation and use of small and medium sized enterprises for the most vulnerable IDPS to help them champion the course of restoration and sustainable development (Kaldor, 2013).

A key role played by these small and medium sized enterprises in reconstruction following the conflict. There was both physical, economic as well as social destructions following the war. The

existence of small and medium enterprises ensures that the limited resources gained from various international organizations are used for reconstructing the lives of the most vulnerable IDPs in a number of ways. Some of these are constructively directed towards the provision of shelter, creation of small economic ventures for sustainability as well as social reconstruction (Castles et al. 2013).

Further, the impact of the conflict necessitates relief as well as rehabilitation for refugees.

Through small and medium sized enterprises, the IDPs can easily coordinate relief as supported by international organizations working with the IDPs in Syria as well as work together in various rehabilitation programs to help each other heal from the ravages of war and work towards their sustainable development.

The Role of Small and Medium Enterprises for Most Vulnerable Syrian Refugees in their Economic Development

Syrian refugees are scattered across neighboring countries and face a number of challenges, some of which are totally different from those faced by the Syrian IDPs back in Syria. Since the commencement of the conflict in 2011, there are Syrian refugees who have spent close to eight years in foreign countries. These population comprise of personnel with professional qualifications who were previously absorbed into active employment in Syria, but are then rendered jobless due to their refugee status. Further, there are people who through education enhancement in their host countries have acquired qualifications making them suitable for the job market and thus need to be engaged in active employment to support themselves and families. It is at this point that small and medium sized enterprises for most vulnerable Syrian refugees prove significant (Baran et al, 2018).

In Lebanon for example, there are over one million Syrian refugees who need financial support in order to cater for their daily needs without being heavily reliant on aid. Small and medium sized enterprises enable them work toward overcoming obstacles in their way towards wage labor in their host countries (Ponzoni et al, 2017). Further, the small and medium sized enterprise support Syrian refugees in their countries of refuge such as Lebanon and Jordan to come up with their own business which in turn support their economic wellbeing, without being over reliant on aid. This also contributes to attainment of economic development as these refugees are placed in better positions to rebuild their lives even upon possible future return to their home nation; as they would not be needing aid to resettle and kick start their lives there (MacKellar, 2015).

United Nations Projects for Syrian Refugees in Jordan

Jordan hosts a significant number of Syrian refugees and the UN has designed a number of projects in Jordan to aid Syrian refugees lead stable lives. The development projects are steered by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). In Jordan, there are four main forms of development specifically designed for the situation of Syrian refugees, so as to see through their economic development based on the circumstances of Jordan (Dahi, 2014).

To begin with, the UNDP is working towards the creation of short term employment openings for Syrian refugees in Jordan. This is a move towards improving the livelihoods of the Syrian refugees as they will be able to cater for their needs over and above the little aid offered by the international community throughout their stay in Jordan. In line with the short term employment openings, the UNDP also runs economic recovery programs in particular focus on the Syrian

refugees and this is considered to be aiding the delivery and access to basic social services as needed by the Syrian refugees (Stave & Hillesund, 2015).

Secondly, the UN through the UNDP is working towards enhancing local economic development among the refugee population and this is considered as achievable through creation of small and medium sized enterprises among the Syrian refugees in Jordan. Additionally, skills matching and exchange programs by the UNDP are regarded as contributing towards local economic development of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Jordan is a more developed state in the Middle East. However, the influx of Syrian refugees in the nation has stretched capacity and rendered the delivery of social and municipal service difficult, particularly to the refugee population accommodated within Jordan. In working towards ensuring effective economic growth and stability for Syrian refugees in Jordan the UNDP is working in collaboration with the Jordanian government towards improving the delivery of social as well as municipal services to the refugee population so as to enhance their capacity to be productive in their environment, as well as enjoy some of the basic rights and needs that their status as refugees would deny them (Francis, 2015).

Lastly on UN projects for Syrian refugees in Jordan, the UN is providing to the Syrian refugees technical support with respect to coordinating the concerns of Jordan as a host country to the vast population of Syrian refugees. This technical support ensures that the refugees stay in harmony with the Jordanian system of governance and that any assistance and help coming the refugees' way is easily accessible by the refugees as well as utilized for their benefit (Farishta, 2014).

United Nations Projects for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

The work done by the UN for Syrian refugees in countries such as Jordan is carried on to Lebanon, tailored in Lebanon's own circumstances and conditions with respect to Syrian refugees so as to deliver projects that would help uplift the condition of Syrian refugees in Lebanon (Masterson et al, 2014).

UN efforts in Lebanon for the Syrian refugees is steered through a major project, the Stabilization and Recovery Program (SRP), designed for the most vulnerable communities of Lebanon and owing to Lebanon's own circumstances as a country; with the aim of steering the vulnerable communities as well as the country as a whole towards development and a promising future.

The SRP can be divided into three crucial sub-projects as implemented by the UNDP, with the first being enhancement of the stability and resilience of the vulnerable communities within Lebanon, and a majority of this community comprises of Syrian refugees flocking into Lebanon since 2011. With respect to this, the UNDP seeks to work hand in hand with refugees as well as host communities in helping them gain access to basic service that are critical owing to the refugee status (Charles & Denman, 2013). Additionally, UNDP considers that effective conflict resolution is key towards the peaceful coexistence of Syrian refugees and local communities in Lebanon and thus works towards the provision of both informal and formal mechanisms through which such disputes can be resolve to enable both the local and refugee communities develop and thrive. The UN is able to ascertain and implement these endeavors through identifying the existent gaps in service deliver as well as the economic tensions created by the refugee situation in Lebanon, and thus implement the most suited course of action.

Secondly, the UN aims at supporting key Lebanese public institution so as to enable them develop capacity to manage various crisis resulting from the high refugee population levels in Lebanon. This support is granted at various levels of government and part of the implementation of the project involves training for various government officers on how they can hand crisis resulting from the refugee situation in Lebanon (Cherri et al, 2016). Further the UN aids the Lebanese government in conducting research and development of policy with respect to the refugee situation the Syrian conflict has exposed it to; in order to ensure that the nation is able to ably host the Syrian refugees and accord them an opportunity to develop within their territory with little conflict and collision.

Lastly, the UN through the UNDP coordinates various stabilization and recovery activities in Lebanon for the sake of the refugee population present in the country. The main aim of this initiative is to bring together stakeholders involved with the refugee crisis in Lebanon towards arriving at the best solutions for the refugees, and these include the Lebanese government alongside donors and the international community. This ensures harmonious policy and improvement to the conditions of the refugees in a number of ways, including improvement of their livelihood.

Conclusion

To conclude on the paper, international development projects embarked on by international organizations both within and outside Syria have been of great assistance to IDPs and refugees resulting from the conflict in Syria. The UN has been leading through various agencies such as the UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and UNDP taking care of IDP and refugee needs, providing for refugee and IDP children from the conflict, facilitating the provision and distribution of relief food in Syria and neighboring countries with Syrian refugees as well as

spearheading rebuilding processes within Syria. All these have been in the aim of making life bearable for IDPs and refugees from the Syrian conflict as well as facilitating the resettlement process as the war subsides over time. Other international organizations such as the World Vision and ARDA are working in countries such as Lebanon and Jordan to provide educations for Syrians as well as assist those with education find jobs within their host countries to help in improving their conditions of living. Thus, international organizations and the international development projects implemented with respect to the conflict in Syria have greatly helped to address the needs of the IDPs and refugees resulting from the conflict, substantially arresting the humanitarian crisis resulting from the war.

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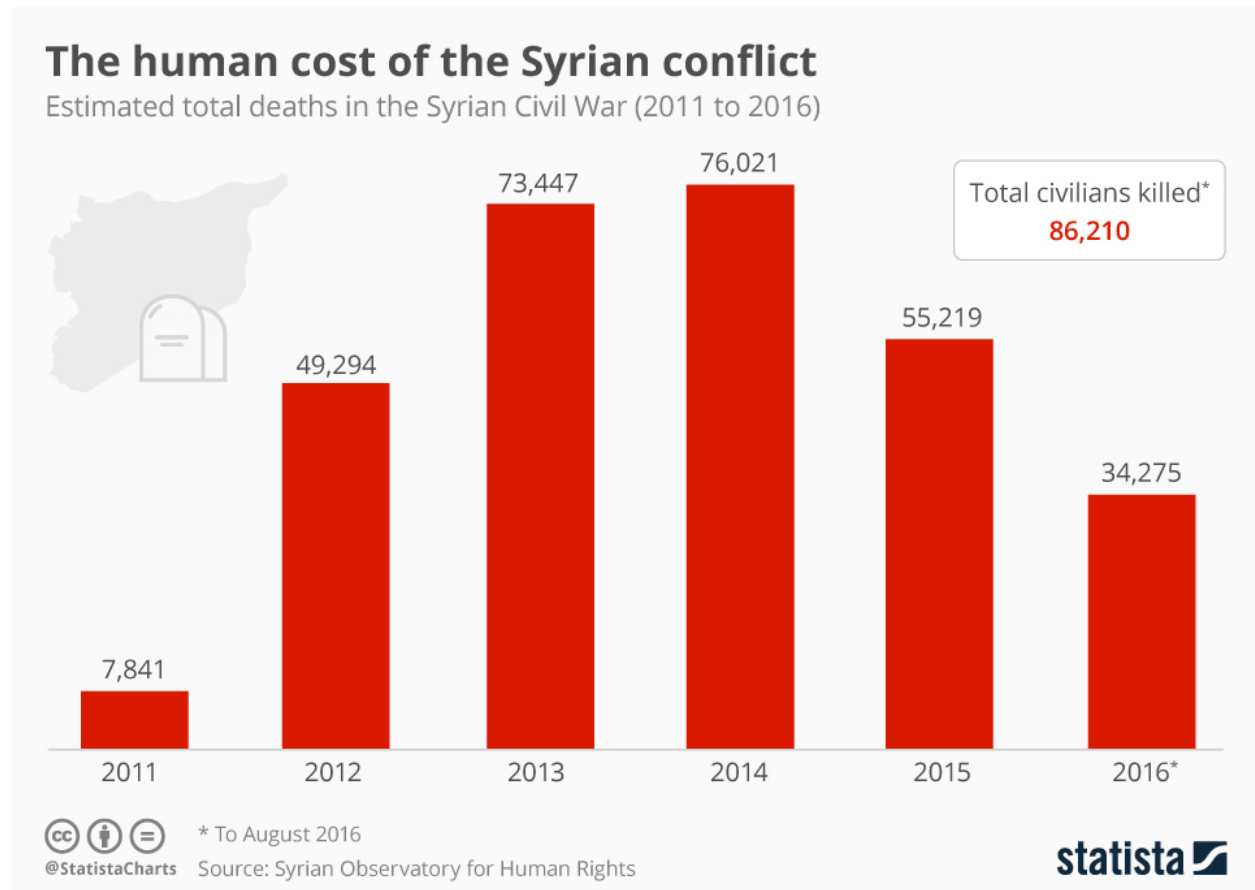
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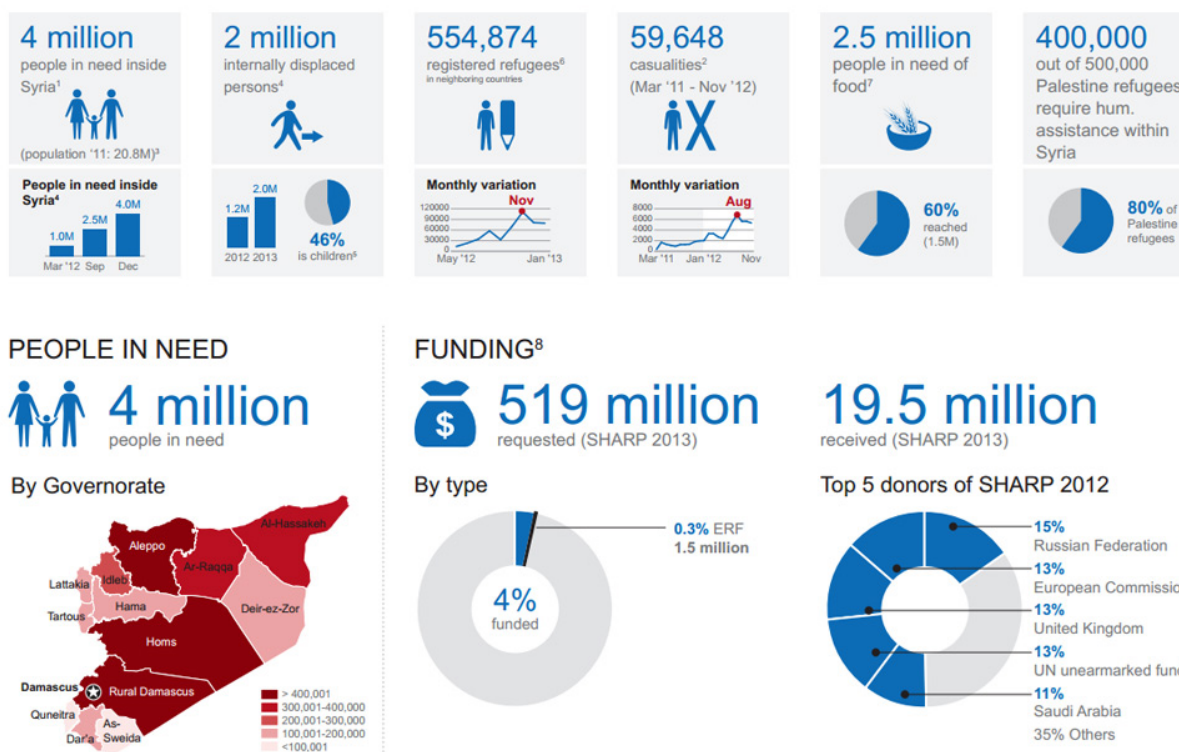
Appendix

Appendix 1: Estimated Deaths from the conflict in Syria



Human cost of the Syrian conflict from 2011 to 2016 (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, August 2016).

Appendix 2: Humanitarian Figures



Humanitarian figures following the breakout out of the Syrian Conflict (abc.net as at 18th March, 2018)